

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 54 further comprising a heterologous reporter gene operably linked to the inducible promoter region.

Claim 31 (Cancelled)

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 30.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A vector as claimed in claim 32 comprising at least one of the following: luxAB reporter genes; sacB gene; antibiotic resistance; RP4/RK2 mobilizing elements.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A vector as claimed in claim 33 comprising lux AB reporter genes, sacB gene, kanamycin and thiostrepton resistance genes, an *E. coli* origin of replication, and RP4 mobilizing elements.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A method of transforming a host cell comprising introducing the vector of claim 32 into a host cell.

Claim 36 (Cancelled)

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the host cell is a mycolic acid bacterium of the same strain from which at least one of the inducible promoter and operon proteins were isolated.

Claims 38-48 (Cancelled)

Claim 49 (Cancelled)

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an operon protein, which operon protein is the Regulator (REG) protein of the R. corallina ohp operon.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 50 wherein the nucleotide sequence ~~(SEQ ID No: 1)~~ encodes an amino acid molecule having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~sequence shown in Fig. 4 from nucleotide base 295 to nucleotide base 1035.~~

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 51 wherein the nucleotide sequence is ~~shown in Fig. 4 (SEQ ID NO: 1) from initiator codon 295 to codon 1035~~ from nucleotides 295 to 1035 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 53 (Cancelled)

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 50 further comprising an inducible promoter region of the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No: 1 encoding the *R. corallina ohp* operon having the genes shown in Fig. 3 wherein the Regulator (REG) protein controls transcriptional initiation of said inducible promoter region.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 54 wherein the inducible promoter region is the ohp promoter region which lies between ~~genes orfR~~ ~~regulatory gene (nucleotide base 1035)~~ and ~~orfT transport (nucleotide base 1450)~~ shown in Fig. 4 (SEQ ID No: 1) nucleotides 1035 and 1450 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 50.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A vector as claimed in claim 56 comprising one or more of the following: luxAB reporter genes; sacB gene; antibiotic resistance; RP4/RK2 mobilizing elements.

Claim 58 (Cancelled)

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): A host transformed with the vector of claim 56.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A host transformed with the vector of claim 32.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): A method of introducing an operon protein into a host cell, which operon protein is the regulator (REG) protein of the *R. corallina ohp* operon, said method comprising the step of transforming said host cell with a vector as claimed in claim 56.